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Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DECAL supports Let's Move! Child Care State Challenge**

*Child Care Community plays vital role in fight against childhood obesity  
and promoting healthy development*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (March 18, 2012)** – Bobby Cagle, commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, says DECAL joins with the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care in supporting the Let's Move! Child Care State Challenge and its effort to ensure that all child care settings are "safe, healthy and learning." The program was launched by First Lady Michelle Obama with the aim of creating a healthier future for children in early care and education programs.

"Recent statistics tell us that more than 20-percent of children between the ages of two and five are overweight or obese," Cagle explained. "The child care community is an essential ally in our efforts to prevent childhood obesity, support children's healthy development overall and prevent the occurrence of chronic disease later in life."

The Let's Move! initiative provides tips, Webinars and other online resources highlighting goals oriented towards child care providers, including increasing physical activity, reducing screen time, improving food and beverage choices, and supporting infant feeding.

Let's Move! Child Care participants can complete an online interactive checklist quiz to assess what quality improvements can be made related to these goals. Providers can create action plans to incorporate into their own programs and earn a certificate of recognition after the completion of the plan.

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All across the country, child care providers are signing up and the states with the highest percentage of providers participating and completing the program will be recognized at the Weight of the Nation Conference in Washington, D.C. this May.

“We hope that Georgia family child care, center-based programs, Georgia Pre-K and Head Start will commit to Let's Move! Child Care by signing up as soon as possible,” said Commissioner Cagle.

For more information on the Let's Move! Child Care State Challenge, please visit

<http://healthykidshealthyfuture.org>

### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education.

For more information, go to [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).

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